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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the application. Claims 10-45 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

1. (Original) A method of inhibiting a ubiquitin isopeptidase in a cell, comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound having an α,β,-unsaturated ketone, wherein said ketone has a sterically accessible electrophilic β-carbon, wherein said agent is cell permeable and active in intact cells, and wherein said agent is not a cyclopentenane prostaglandin of the J family.

2. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound contains a cross-conjugated α,β, α',β'-unsaturated ketone moiety, and wherein at least one of said electrophilic β-carbons is sterically accessible.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein both of said electrophilic β-carbons are sterically accessible.

4. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the α carbon of at least one α,β-unsaturated ketone moiety bears an electron withdrawing substituent.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said electron withdrawing substituent is selected from the group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, nitro, nitrilo and carboxy.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said carboxy group is an acid, ester of amide group.

7. (Previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said α,β-unsaturated ketone comprises a conjugated cyclopentene moiety.

8. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a punaglandin.

9. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said compound is a punaglandin selected from the group consisting of PNG 6.

10-45. (Previously Canceled)